



Highlights

- Preserved valuable application business logic
- Combined the new, open technology of the Java platform with COBOL
- Developed needed cross-platform portability
- Added Web enablement options to provide customers with flexible application access
- Reduced costs by reusing the legacy applications

AG Informática y Servicios Preserves Legacy COBOL Applications with Modern Java Technology

Trusted ERP supplier maintains market prominence with new platform options

After many years of successfully offering specialized ERP applications on Windows platforms, AG Informática y Servicios wanted to be in front of emerging trends emphasizing Web-oriented applications. The company selected Veryant's isCOBOL™ Evolve to preserve its valued COBOL application assets and cost-efficiently distribute them on new platforms.

Demand for platform independent, Web-based offering drives change

AG Informática y Servicios, SA offers several ERP applications for business management, and a wide range of solutions, from consulting through development and deployment of ERP systems, to EDI solutions. Their main products include EDI solutions, integrated product management, financial and human resources management, as well as applications specifically for the automotive, steel, aluminum, and glassware industries.

The company had delivered Micro Focus COBOL and Dialog System-based products for several years on various Windows operating systems. It saw the trend toward Web applications, with companies demanding modern, platform-independent applications that provided mobility, regardless of users' work locations.

The 22-year-old company sought to make its offerings attractive to a larger market, while preserving its valuable ERP applications and making them more flexible and appealing to today's Web 2.0 users. Platform independence was an important goal.

AG Informática y Servicios, headquartered in San Sebastián on the north coast of Spain, previously considered different approaches to meet their goals. However, starting from scratch and rewriting all of their legacy programs was a risky and costly endeavor. And, rewriting only a portion of their programs would not deliver a solution that was robust or flexible enough.

There were also strict project criteria to meet. This included completing a migration at the lowest possible cost to preserve margins and retaining as much of the business logic from existing applications as possible. Furthermore, keeping the project on schedule and manageable was quite important to the development team.

Veryant provides innovative path forward

AG Informática y Servicios reviewed Microsoft Visual Studio, Micro Focus, and Veryant's isCOBOL Evolve. The company selected Veryant because it offered the most portable and cost-effective solution that would take the least time to deploy. isCOBOL technology would provide a modern look and feel, as well as Web-enabled deployment, without rewriting application code.

"isCOBOL will enable us to deliver an exciting, agile path forward for our key applications,"

explained Gregorio Arroyo, president of AG Informática y Servicios.

isCOBOL blends the optimized, business-oriented nature of COBOL with the openness, portability, and power of the Java platform. This enhances productivity and eases integration between legacy and new application environments. The isCOBOL Runtime Environment is 100 percent Java, so COBOL applications can be deployed across multiple platforms using a single code base.

AG Informática y Servicios selected all eleven isCOBOL modules to meet its unique needs. It found special benefits in isCOBOL™ ESQL Generator because it provides a seamless transition from ISAM files to an RDBMS without changing the COBOL source code or learning SQL. Also, the company found the Eclipse-based isCOBOL™ IDE ideal because it shortened development cycles and easily permits the use of graphical controls, internally generating all of the logic needed to manage them.

The migrated applications will be accessed by users directly from their desktops on terminal emulators. They will also be distributed across the network and online through Web pages.

During the migration, the AG Informática y Servicios team received valuable support from Veryant. According to Arroyo, Veryant's support was excellent. "We were pleased by the responsive and innovative team at Veryant."

From this endeavor, the company has reached its goal of improved cross-platform application portability, as well as gaining an enhanced GUI end user environment.

More importantly, costs were reduced because the legacy applications were reused and there was no need for a costly, risky application rewrite.

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- Gregorio Arroyo, president, AG
Informática y Servicios



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